(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) On the basis of certain media reports that the German Government was willing to share information regarding accountholders in the Liechtenstein's LGT Bank with any government that wanted it, the Government of India on its own initiative requested for the information relating to Indian accountholder's, if any, from the German authorities.

New price indices

364. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to introduce new modes of price indices; and

(b) what are the weights assigned to different commodities in the new index and how do they compare with those in present system of index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) It is proposed to compile separate Consumer Price Index (CPI) for entire urban area. The field work pertaining to price data collection for CPI (Urban) has already started. Attempts are being made to finalise the agency for collection of rural price data for compilation of CPI (Rural). Working Group on revision of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has also submitted its report recommending shifting of the base year to 2004-05 for the new series of WPI as against the current series with its base year of 1993-94.

(b) Statement giving provisional weighting diagrams of CPI (Urban), CPI (Rural) and weighing diagram of CPI (Urban Non-manual Employees) is given in the Statement (*See* below). A total of 1225 commodities have been identified for the new series of WPI. However, adjustments in product basket would be required depending on the response from the sources.

Statement - I

Comparative Weighting Diagram of CPI numbers

Group Sl. No.	Sub group Sl. No.	Sub group/group	CPI (Urban) provisional Price collection Started from May 2008	CPI (UNME) 1984-85	CPI (Rural) provisional Proposed
1	2	3	4	5	6
	1.	Cereals	8.73	10.97	18.85
	2.	Pulses	1.88	2.51	3.21
	3.	Milk and Milk Product	6.61	9.02	8.48

1	2	3	4	5	6
	4.	Edible oils	2.89	4.39	4.61
	5.	Egg, Fish and Meat	2.26	2.99	3.34
	6.	Vegetables	3.96	4.31	6.49
	7.	Fruits	1.88	1.99	1.87
	8.	Sugar	1.26	1.84	2.37
	9.	Spices	1.16	1.53	2.10
	10.	Non Alcoholic Beverages	2.02	1.31	2.01
	11.	Prepared meals etc.	3.17	4.81	2.54
	12.	Pan/ Tobacco Intoxicants	1.35	1.46	2.69
I		**Food**	37.16	47.13	58.57
II	13.	**Fuel and light**	8.40	5.48	10.19
	14.	Clothing and Bedding	3.34	6.14	4.54
	15.	Footwear	0.57	0.89	0.76
III		**Clothing, bedding and Footwear**	3.91	7.03	5.30
IV	16.	**Housing**	22.53	16.41	1.29
	17.	Education	4.18	4.58	2.67
	18.	Medical	4.34	2.51	6.63
	19.	Recreation and amusement	1.99	2.19	0.98
	20.	Transport and Communication	9.84	5.18	5.74
	21.	Personnal care and effects	2.74	4.55	3.01
	22.	Household requisites	3.92	2.02	4.52
	23.	Others	0.99	2.92	1.10
V		**Miscellaneous**	28.00	23.95	24.65
		All Groups	100.00	100.00	100.00

Financial crisis in the USA

365. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent financial crisis in United States of America (USA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is its impact on the Indian economy?